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THE  
S P O I L E S  
OF THE

Forrest of Deane

Asserted in answer to a scurrilous  
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behalf.

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By *Isaac Bromwich Esq;* a well willer to the  
Preservation of that Forrest, and a  
Joynt-Commissioner.

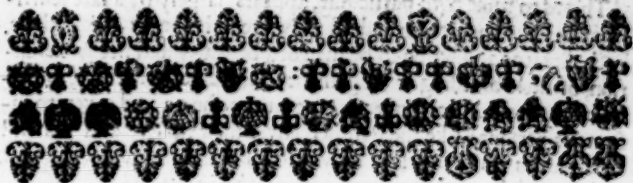
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L O N D O N,  
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The Spoiles of the Forrest of Deane  
 Asserted in answer to a scurrilous  
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**I** hath pleased God in these latter dayes  
 (whether in mercy, to Confirm the good ; or  
 judgement to harden the wicked) to draw  
 us down so low and neer the very dregs and  
 lees of impiety ; that for ought I observe,  
 those men think themselves, most merito-  
 rious and politick, who (far from the  
 blushes of a modest brow) can with greatest  
 impudencie and daringnesse defame, traduce  
 and scandalize all such, who either out of Conscience towards  
 God, as Christians, or the scene of honour as Englishmen, cannot  
 commit those their iniquities with greedinesse, or at last connive or  
 joyn with them in those villanies and false actions : which being  
 but once shined on by a true light, would grow abominable not  
 onely to Christians, but meaner tempers : who acting but little a-  
 bove the beast, barely preserve humane society.

Were not this an approved truth, men would take heed how  
 they call'd good evil, and evil good, how they sharpened their  
 tongues like rasors, and with envenom'd quils, dart at those, who  
 dare question or discover their wickednesse.

This as to mine own particular, appears largely by a late scurrilous libel, the conception and issue whereof bespeaks the Fathers, both dictator and scribe to be men of a beggarly and needy invention, of little breeding or judgement, language or honesty, otherwise they would not, (under that common cheate and cover to infamous persons) like the Panther, cover their heads, and conceal their names while they seek to swallow up their neighbours quick, and eat and devour the reputes of those who in the end will be found to deserve better then themselves.

When I first read my name therein, and observ'd it but the sicklie and false product of some spurious fancie, I esteem'd contempt thereof the most suitable revenge, but when the judgement of some friends above answer'd, that some thing in point of honour ought to bee opposed, I submitted, and was willing to rip up that threadbare-peece, which indeed is fitter for the kennell, then a modest pen containing as many fallhoods as lines.

And to begin with the first, it enters the stage with an apparant deceit, as if Collonell *Massey* were the first who began these pranks in the Forrest of *Deane*, and to that purpose insinuates, that Coll. *Kyrle* and Captain *Phillips*, about a year since, bought that Bargaine which neither *Massey* nor his assignes, could or would make good, with the Committee of Revenue, and how Captaine *Pury* to hedge in a marriage portion, bought that again by retails. But whether some persons to fetch in desperate portions, might drive on desperate designs, sure I am tis notoriously known, that six yeares since, long before Colonell *Massey* enter'd upon that busines, both Collonell *Kyrle* and Captain *Brayne*, cut down great sums of wood, engross'd great store of iron, and for that end truckt with those who had to doe with neither, (not the Committee of Revenue but) some Committee men of *Gloucester*. And whereas tis said Collonell *Kyrle* let out two iron works, I would likewise know, how he came by them? and if they put a *queritur*, what sentence it was for Captain *Pury* to secure himself, by such collusive bargains, there may be another *queritur*, by what power the one could let, or the other take, what was ravish'd & still kept by force and fraud from the right owners. Yet the libeller takes the privilege to say, that the iron workes were enjoyed quietly without the least exception, three or four yeeres together, if any thing of this be true, what was the reason, in the beginning they were so carefull, to nominate such Commissioners, as knew nothing of their jugglings,

or

or scarce what belonged to the Forrest, and was not Captain *Pury*, a very fit Commissioner, to sit and sell the wood, who must have a share of the profit? They knew full well, if they had suffer'd some other men to be nominated, they did and would have opposed it from the beginning, as well as the whole Country Complained thereof.

But it is strictly objected, pag. 2 & 3. That Master *Pury* could be none of those destructive offenders, for wonderfull weighty reasons. Because the profit of good and bad timber, or wood, is alike to him, and it being referr'd to Captain *Philips* he could be but a passive offendor; that he gave order to the woodcutters, in publick, not to Cut downe the good trees; that he good man was at Parliament, and therefore could know nothing, and very much fluffie to this tune. Whereas 'tis replied, there is much difference betwixt sound and smooth timber, and knotty and decayed wood, both in the Coarding wages, and the Coal that proceeds thereof; Besides it being the custome of the iron Masters (to whom the former Officers were not servants, but slaves) to have particular assignations for their severall Felleetts, can any man beleieve Master *Pury* should send up and down the Forrest for decayd trees, when once his allotment is made amongst good Timber? will any man of reason be convinced, that his zeal of preserving could be so serious being at his own liberty, when afterwards, notwithstanding orders of restraint, he Commanded 400. trees to be destroyed, not onely in a neglecting, but a Contemptuous manner? A very ill example to others who were not Parliament men aswell as himselfe. But for his reference of the mannagery of the wood to Captain *Philips*, 'tis all one as if the Grand Signior did refer a busines to one of his Mutes a fter his pleasure were once known.

'Tis a cheap and easie way of requitall, when a man hath stoln a goose to stick down a feather, and when Master *Pury* hath been not only assenting to, but active in the spoile of so brave a Forrest, to give afterward a chill and flegmatick charge, that no trees should forsooth be cut down, but what the preservators allotted, is an excellent satisfaction to the state, and if they please to be paid with such Copper-Coyne, I will undertake they shall have chap-men by the dozens, the true English of that charge being no more but this, that he left command to (the Yeoman of his guard) the officers of the Forrest, they should take especiall heed, that onely the well grown and goodly Oaks and Beeches should be hewn down

for the future preservation thereof; It being now grown a stale pro-  
 verbe, of five years standing, let us cut down the best first, and the  
 rest will follow, which is so well observed, that those men who knew  
 the goodly plot of timber in 88, and consider it now, and doth but  
 cast up the spoiles done within these six years, will almost joyn with  
 the usuall and bold assertion made by the iron Masters, when they  
 Come for contracts, that the Committee need not now stand so nice  
 upon termes of preservation, for that there is scarce a tree left fit for  
 shipping in the whole Forrest.

For his being above at Parliament, I do aver it, that its happy  
 God hath sent us other manner of members, who take Care of this  
 Nation; For while a person of that society should indeed be above,  
 and carefully assistant in the preservation of his Countrey his neigh-  
 bours and their just interests, to be then terrifying and tampering,  
 to be skaring and affrighting almost all sorts and sizes, who will not  
 comply with the sordid gaines and reaches of wicked men, is a thing  
 which makes the poor people, even faint, and beleve that the mem-  
 bers which they have chosen are but like the bramble in a storm, to  
 which while the poor sheep flies for succour, he doth but lose his  
 wooll. Though the more knowing sort, are not yet grown such  
 wofull zanyes, or of so implicite a faith, but they beleve Master  
*Pury* might have shewn more of his duty at *Laundon*, then in that  
 Forrest. And as I am perswaded the Parliament never obliged the  
 hearts of Englishmen more in these parts, then by those excellent and  
 seasonable Votes of *Januar. 1.* Last past, and afterwards managed  
 with so much prudence and Care by the Councell of State, so they  
 never suffer'd a greater alienation and distaste in the hearts and affe-  
 ctions of well minded people, then by the Collusive and mean  
 jugglings of some persons in the bargains of the Forrest. And much  
 more is brought to light and discovered in this busines, then the par-  
 ties themselves Concern'd do think or imagine.

But to go along with this libell, we must for their methods sake,  
 chop it into their own Sections. And in the first place it is by all  
 rogues desired to consider the persons prosecuted, that is to say  
 like to be discovered, and there are 1. Colonel *Kyrle*, who says  
 the libeller was in arms for the Parliament; and I say he was in  
 arms for the King, wherein we are neither of us lyars. But the Par-  
 liament owes him and his four Brothers 3000. pound (I hope  
 Col. *Kyrle* doth not cut down the Forrest because the House owes  
 other men money) But pray lets see the Bill of Debt, and if it shall  
 be

be made appear that this noble Collonell owes the State six thousand, I hope some emergency of merit, or great disbursements of money must be produced, else how will he cut scoates for the other three? That his brother receiv'd a wound at a Bartail with Prince Rupert in the North may be true, yet possibly it may be as true that himself might give it him, as well as lately he bestowed the like favour upon Collonell Cromwells quarter-master, as a pledge of his good affection to the Parliament. That busines with a few other pretty small transgressions, deserves the armies consideration, that they may know what a trusty and divine champion they are like to have, if ever a just occasion should be given. But what consideration he deserves, for one of his Brothers vouchsafing to ride in the Life-Guard, or because his Father died of a Fever in Gloucester, I leave to better judgements, as I doe the man and his merites to God, but am afraid to write those abominations which he hath with confidence acted upon the house-top, and in the sight of the people.

I confesse for Captaine *Griffantius Phillips* (by the way that's a cruell hard name and scarce given by his British God-fathers) I never heard of his imprisonment in *Oxford* till now, but do know that that gentleman very well deserves it in *Gloucester*. If Col. *Walton* was in the first place a testimony of the one, the rest of the members of the house may happily think it fit to adjudge him to the other: if this Welsh *Don-Quixot* were the pen-man of this libell (as by the excellency of the style, and strength of the Syllogismes is imagined) he cryes out much of his body being once taken in execution: let him take heed, if he be once detected to the Parliament, in his true colours it may be deliver'd to execution erke more without a reprieve. I dare say did his honest Mother, the good Ale-wife, know how her Son (descended of so lofty and great a progeny) doth discountend drunkards, she would give him but slender entertainment at her pittance at *Alexanders Quarters*. And however he be now pleased to throw such indignities in my face, undeservedly; yet within these few yeares, I thought my self in a condition, fit to have receiv'd better language from him. Neither would this nimble Squire have offer'd it, when he was humbly pleas'd to foot it, in his Irish Stockings and Bartoque in *Quarpo*.

It will I take it, be easily admitted, that this man hath, like a Mushroom, suddainly sprunge up, by his pretences of publique service, yet if it should be proved, that (had it not been for the Lieut<sup>ant</sup>

nant



ant Generalls army in his way) he would have run into *Pembroke*, to his deare Countryman Monsieur *Poyer*, the Parliament cannot but thinke him trayterous and ingratefull. Though it be no news, when such gallants, get on horse-back, for an ordinary man (without witchcraft) to tell you whether they will ride; By that time he hath answer'd the State for his feates in the Forrest, and some other very fine pranks, as ordinary a person may hold his stirrup.

No desire or desert of mine could produce that ill opinion of Master *Pury* which his late actions hath wrought against him, my apprehensions of his ingenuity exceeding my judgement of his avarice. Neither when I was usually told of his abuses behind my back, was I so much moved at him, as when I observed him deliver'd up to that fatall passion, I thought my self concerned to decline him. What his services have been, let those who know them cry them up, I confesse I live so far off, being near a bow-Shot, that I have not heard of them. Sure I am, he hath been extraordinarily well paid for his long marches, and hard labours. But of his stormings and dangerous adventures, his continuall hot and close fights and skirmishes, I hope there are some who live in and about the *Deanery* can give a readier account. As for us, who are more remote, we dare confidently beleeve and say, there is not a person of the masculine gender, will ever rise up in judgement for the bloodshed of that pretty manslayer.

T'was very ill done, I must acknowledge, of the Commander in cheife, to destine him to so many and desperate on-slattes, yet, being at least for two years together preserv'd from harm, as the writer confesseth, by the Lord of Holtes, it argued a great want of faith and remembrance of former deliverances, when afterwards, at the sight of the enemy, he made such unreasonable haste, and in so much distemper. But what is this to the case of these 3. Gentlemen the libeller saith, the Iron-works were set up by authority of Parliament; I say no, they were set up too long before, and repair'd by authority of their own, But must to the joy of all men, be pull'd down by authority of Parliament; and for selling of wood at reasonable rates we know the meaning of that; the trick is not forgotten, nor the meanes by whom t'was procured, That command hath been well obeyed, otherwise they could not brag they could, and had bought as much wood for a groate a cord, as they pleas'd, and others that they might sell cheaper their iron then others, for that their wood cost them little or nothing. Heere went the Hare a-



way, and from these persons tis not hard to finde what is become of the Forrest; yet for such people to make it such a haynous busines for one of them to be imprisn'd, when he deserv'd something else, and the other for his lands to be question'd, when it ought to be extended by the law, is so foolish an apology, that it deserves, nothing but contempt from wise or honest men.

Now to winde up the first part of the libell, into one Bottome, we must once more consider, the good affection, services, and hard-ship of these 3. Gentlemen, (certainly Master *Phillips* is one upon the welsh account) how they have adventur'd their lives (one or two of them may do it once more) their great estates, and which is more then all their families and fortunes too besides, what the Parliament truly owes them.

Me thinks tis a shame, to read this effrontery, look upon these men, but 5. yeares since, in their full equipage and furniture, take away these destructive gaines of the Forrest from some, the large concessions, blessings, and donatives of the Parliament from the other, and what the hazards of their families, fortunes, and estates were, may be cast up without great insight in Arithmetick. And for such men to prate what the Parliament owes them, when they owe all they have and more to them, is so bold an impudence, that it deserves a sharp inquisition and a sharper punishment, and what the demerits of some of them are, may shortly and sooner be made known to the world, then they do imagine.

But leaving a little, the tragicall part of their high atchievements and sufferings for them, their great losses and crosses, let us look to the Comickall progresse of the libell, and observe, with what kindnesse it visits the Commissioners of enquiry, who are said by a Commission *ex parte*, to be in the generall but meere prosecutors, of those just, quiet, and harmlesse people, in comparison of whom, we are made in our persons and conditions as the vilest and most mean-creatures, a pack of mischeivous and partiall wicked people, that seek only our own ends, and what not? Yet a little before I go to the persons. I would ask what they mean by a commission *ex parte*? is it lawfull for a theif, when he is arraigned, to accuse the justice of the judge and jury, because he likewise hath not a Commission to examine negative witnesses on his side? our Commission was to inquire what spoiles were committed in the Forrest, and not what was not committed, severall witnesses come and depose, that Master *Kyrle* and *Phillips* cut down above ten thousand timber

trees; and were it usuall or handsome for them, to have commissioners to examine that they cut down none? Did the kings former commissions run in this sort, or what non-sense is it this foolish libeller drives at? If we enforced or skiew'd out what was not true, let several depositions be read to the same thing, or else at least let the interests be discover'd we did drive at. But if for our acting according to duty, to trust to our conscience & country, we shall be sued prosecutors, if by lyes and reproaches we shall be scandaliz'd, and by underhand threats and combinations be overawed and menaced, to be no lesse forsooth then totally ruin'd, if we must be told by some of our friends, we must give off in time, to teach the grosse injuries done to the state, though commanded, or lesse we shall be undone; That tis not our integrity or innocency shall be our protection, but the meere power of our opponents in this businesse of the Forrest, that shall destroy us; if the Commission under the great seal, and Commissioners shall be baffled and concerned, so far that they were like to have fallen into force, and that by a member of the house styling it in the face of the Country a hedge Commission. I would fayne know what perion of honour or fortune will engage in the Commands of State? or will not their authority by degrees grow cold and neglected, and so their affairs grow waste and desolate? certainly these things being well consider'd, the Encouragement seems to be very small.

And now to the persons of the Commissioners, to these the libeller sayes, Master *Brimwich* and Master *Betrow* (nominall Colonels) with some Citizens of *Bristol* (good men and true I hope) are the prosecutors, and procured (as may forsooth be conceived only) themselves to be Commissioners. (the airy figment of the libeller) to their own great costs and charges and to be believed by none but such a pragmatick fellow as the scribler; and so fully and substantially answered by that honest Gentleman Captain *Bishop*, my fellow labourer and Commissioner, that I have no trouble my pen with so improbable a vanity. Only let me say this for my own part (and I really believe the rest may say as much), that as I never saw the faces of many of the Commissioners before they met, So I knew no more of my name being used, till casual lyd heard thereof, then I did that the libeller was a very honest and a faithfull Gentleman to the Common-wealth. 1641

But why nominall Colonels. I pray? Neither of them but had their Commissions long before Master *Kyle* turn'd to the Parliament,

ment, and some of their friends stick not to say, they kept to their trust; and ever hated dishonorable plundering, robbing, stealing, taking away other mens estates by horrid force and violence, and never murder'd any of the poor Parliament Souldiers in cold blood; are these Gentle-men, so quored for presidents, free from these, 'twere well for them if they were.

For Collonel *Berrow*, 'tis well known he had a Command in his Country, and had for Officers and Souldiers, (one officer or two in Master *Kyrles* regiment excepted) another manner of regiment then he had. For my own part, after I had entertained Officers in London, I might easily have raised my regiment in the Country, and was desired by Coll. *Massey*; but it pleased God the troublesome weather beginning to break, up I saw it needlesse. And I can without vanity say, I was never fond (as some men are & have bin) by my own advance to put my Countrey to an unnecessary expere.

Touching my debauch't behaviour toward the Lord Generall, I wish my heart towards that Lord, were written in my forehead; but lest I should be thought, to flatter a person, whose power and merit is so far above me, (which I detest) I will take the liberty onely to say this; my education and birth I hope will render me so much a civiliz'd man, and above that we call ingratefull, as to give the Generall his due, whom upon severall applications and addresses, I found regardfull to me and my businesse beyond my desert or expectation; and for the Election at *Cyrcencester*, I appeale to my Lord Generall himself, what my humble intereates and severall offers to him have been in that busines; In short I do heer openly desire that man, Souldier or else, who upon a good ground, should dare act more for him, or in defence of his repate & known worth then my self; whom I professe I have ever honoured.

For my opposition of Coll. *Rich*, he being a meer stranger to the relations and severall interests of this Country, I understand not what law, reason, or Parliamentary practice could or may condemn me. But 'tis very well known, the fanisie and knack of that Election, proceeded out of the same shop as the Election of *Gloucester*; if Collonel *Rich* sits in the house duly return'd and duly chosen, I am satisfied. I wish in this busines of the Forrest he may shew himself as forward and faithfull as the other members, that the Country may take Some Comfort in his sitting there. But for any proof against me at the Committee of Elections, that ever I heard, or was guilty of, or call'd to answer, I say 'tis a notorious lye, as well as that

of Coll. *Birch*, and sticks in the throat of him, that spake it, and him that writ it; and for the abuse I suffer'd from *Birch*, I question not but in due time, and in another opportunity to have reparation from him. What this libeller meanes by the Committee of *Coventry*, I know not, but this I must say of those Gentle-men of that Committee, with whom I was an unworthy associate, that, as I was a stranger to them, so I never receiv'd more regards from any, and in all their actings they were the only people ever I fate with, that carried their business with authority, honour, and justice, and with whom as I have shared in some difficulties, So I never receiv'd any Command from them, which I did not undergo; I thank God, with readinesse & cheerfull submission, if any contest appear'd in a transitory point of judgement, it was merely temporary and no way, as to me, disabling, and of so little consequence, that I shall love and honour them while I am able to regard n y self.

I If he meanes the City of *Coventry*, truly for 3. years and above al my estate and meanes of subsistence, was seized on and kept from me by the Kings party, and for all that time, they let me want nothing. And I do acknowledge I was constrain'd to borrow even my bread, drink, and cloathing from them, which they freely lent me in as free a measure, as if I had possessed ten times my estate, neither did my self or family want any thing in that City, and I hope I did honestly requite it, and as a token of gratitude, I shall be very forward, to do any respect or service for those people, and am confident shall be lovingly treated, where this scandalous libeller must not shew his face.

That I protect Papists, delinquents, and scandalous Ministers, (titles which they put upon most sufficient men, who will not bring their tooles to the Philistines Grindstone) is a delusive falsehood; how can I protect where any three will condemne? Neither did I to my knowledge ever do that thing in a Committee for any by respects but for justice, and this I dare make good with my life or fortune, and if some of those will do so tis something beyond expectation. But shall every member of the house that sayes No be term'd a protector of delinquents, I have indeed many times put a check, and stop to the impetuous and beastly rage of avaritious men, when by the plottings of Cabinet and dishonorable jugglers I have observed, the ruin and desolation of families intended who never deserv'd it, and this merely to satisfie the rapinous and devouring eye of some men, who by the laws and acts of this very Parliament have  
deser.

(17)  
deserv'd the justice, rather then the countenance or compliance of a Committee. And when I have satisfied my conscience towards God, and my trust to the state (which hath commanded me to do no wrong) I valed not a rush what this scurrilous fellow, or the proudest of his abettors can say against me. Tis known what my sufferings have been both in my purse at *Coventry* (where Master *Knightly*, Master *Pim* and my self lost at and immediately after the siege of *Coventry* above 7000. pounds) and my estate in the country for almost foure years which was wholly lost to an inconsiderable sum: I will not speak of arreares and moneys lent (when God knows then how ill I could spare them) though I might and must with far more justice, and truth, then the others named in the libel. Yet I never clamoured the House as most men do, who lie cursing and banning, to puzzle the House and businesse of the Kingdome; I have waited with patience and will, till a conveniencie, and a temperate opportunity shew themselves. If my self or sufferings may be thought worthy of any regard, I shall be thankfull, and desire to be usefull, if not I will sit down with a manly patience, and relie on that God which hitherto hath been mercifull to me, and hath not utterly forsaken me, and hope to be preserved from that rancor and discontent, which have thrown imprudent and hair-brain'd men upon contrary violencies. That this committee ever refused to act with me, is a falshood of that nature, that I perceive the libeller cares not what he writes, how many times have I been sent to both of late and heretofore, is well known, and the thing is so notorious, that when the libeller shall come to *Gloucester* and be known, the wones and timber of the houses will declare what he is; & for any drunken behaviour, I can say, as my constitution, so my judgment abominats that unmanly sin, and there is much difference betwixt civil converse & society, and the meanness of that condition; I live here open to the censure and view of this city, both Souldiers and others, and I beleeev children will rectifie the libeller and his falshoods. If some of those the scribler voucheth as patterns of merit be as free, let the example left in *Gloucester*, *Barthe*, *Bristol*, *London*, *Hereford*, *Mounmouth*, *Rosse* be judges, and then 'twill be seen, who is, or hath been guilty of that fault they would so faine pin upon the shoulders of honest men.

I do a little wonder at the libeller, when I observe whom he commends, how he dares venture upon the irreligion, scandall, and disaffection of *Collonel Berrow*, that gentleman is able to answer for

himself, and I question not but he will and to the purpose, but this I will say, take only one out of the three forenamed persons, and for the other two, there are those besides my self, who will go neare to prove it, that if all the evil and wickednes in *Europe* were contracted into *England*, and all the impiety in *England* concenter'd into one place, it would be found seminally in intention, or fruitfully in action, in those two men; for he that shall read that bedrole of their continued and multiplied exorbitances, and converse with the story of their lives, will find the wickednesse of their heart and practice, and the principles by vvhich both are managed, to be as dangerous and inuestigable as the head of *Nilus*, vvhich River by the unparalleled conflux, and multitude of thirsty *Animals* shaped in such a diversity of formes and qualities, it is no meivell, if every year it becomes the fruitfull mother of strange births and monstrous productions. Tis nothing for those men to stamp vices and make it currant by being theirs, to commit such prodigious and exotick impieties, that a man vvhould hearken to them rather as paradoxes of iniquity, then the actions of men who bear Gods image about them; who carry with them, not only in their faces, but their daily practices such terrour and slavish awe amongst the poor people, as thinking them supported by some in Parliament (the last and utmost refuge to timorous wretches) who seem'd to be sold to a lasting slavery, that it is the usuall word of Command, do this or that, let me have such or such a bargain at such or such rates, or take it perforce, and threaten the owners or refusers with death, they say what need we care for the whyning of the women, so we may gain one hundred pound a week by the iron works.

If these men were truly scann'd, and their high insolencies detected, *Nero*, *Domitian*, *Cesar Borgia*, or *Johannes Vesilowich* will seem the Fathers of the Country. These are they which make their miserable neighbours like Spaniels lick their feet; and as Mules and Camels kneele down to take up their burdens, at the beck of whose terrour they offer up their estates, as the poore Indians sacrifice to the Devill not for love or Devotion, but for fear he should hurt them. And yet these good souls with *Solomons* strumper, wipe their mouthes and ask what have they done? Whilst like ungratefull sieves they let out and conceal the flower and goodnesse of Gentlemen their neighbours, and retain nothing but the bran and skurffe to throw in their faces.

It seemes his quarrell must end where he was afraid to begin,  
With



with the Commissioners of *Bristol*, and is very angry that they wil not leave trading at Sea for Iron, and run a more short and lesse hazardous voyage into the Forrest or *Can-wood*, (as I take it they might have made their Choyce) for their Merchandise. Master Libeller, I must tell you, I have convers't with those Gentlemen, and do finde that they do out-honest and out wit-you, I was not the cleanly tempering of your Nounne Relatives, could disoblige them from their duty, or the search of your knavery, They who Commerce with the Princes of Christendom, are not that sort of Sea-fish to be Catch't in the net of such a gull as you are; if it be an offence to you, to go to Sea for Iron, it will appear a crime to others, to make it at home of Shipping Timber.

Those Gentlemen have done their duty upon my knowledge like discreet men, and impartiall, who by their sedulity and faithfullnes have fixt such a feather in your Cap, that where ever you come, you will carry it as a badge of a knave or a fool; One of them hath practis'd so far upō you with his pen, & advanced so honestly & stoutly upon your faults, that he will endanger to bring you and your abettors to the stocks, and then we shall have some whipping chear. You belie them fearfully in their vast quantities of Iron, I have with some diligence inquir'd, and for ought I hear, all that any of the Commissioners have to spare you, is onely that they were by their sides.

But supposing all you have said to be true, may you because the Commissioners are faulty, cut down, destroy and ruine? O learned argument, certainly you have learnt the Mood and figures of your Logick no farther then *Radner*.

For the long tale of Sir *John Winter*, and those who long since cut down trees in Avenhall, it was before the Parliament sate, and they were fined 40. thousand pound, and for what is cut down since, is chargeable onely upon those who this libell would defend, who have Committed such notable spoil and devastation, as is not to be parralell'd in any age, let the offences and offenders be examin'd and brought to punishment, who by studying their own grandure and profit, have dishonour'd the Nation, cheated the State, and almost ruind the goodliest plot of shipping timber in the world, and what good or vertue can there be in riches or estate thus basely gotten? for my own part, as I was courted, and indeed intended a share till I discovered the falshood and dammage, so I thank God, from the beginning I have ever opposed it, & observed w<sup>th</sup> some wise men,



men, that those who roasted their meat by the Forrest fire, were lightly choaked afterward with the bones.

For it will be proved within the space of 6. years they have cut that quantity of wood-and timber, which Sir *John Winter* contracted for at 120. thousand pound, and pay'd 20. thousand in earnest, and what account is given to the State must be sought after in the vaine and lavish expences of some immoderate iron Masters. Commonly ill gotten greatnes, though men may roll it under their tounge as a sweet morsell, yet it will turn to gall and bitterness in the end, and while it pleaseth the palat, it becommeth gravell and rotteneffe in the belly.

The Devils themselves have Thrones, Principalities, and dominions (as a gallant Patriot observed) but wanting true goodnes they must for ever want all true honour and happines. A false heart is abominable before God, and they who Crooke publike trusts to private and sinister ends, are and ought to be abominable before just and good men. And seeing the Parliament hath so gratified the Country, in their just and sensible apprehensions of their destructions, I confesse I am hearty in the cause and justice of the Parliament (which my soul loves above all that is mortal :) And for advancement whereof, I dare suffer as much as he deserves who shall endeavour by force or fraud to oppose them in it.

1 *Nil magnum mundo  
nisi magnus animus.*

2 *Magna Contemnens  
non magna metuens.*

3 *Solum fit magnum  
magnificans deum.*

*I. Bromwich.*



